

THE STATISTICAL RESULTS  
OF THE  
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS,

AS DEDUCED FROM

ALL THE PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED UPON  
THE SUBJECT, FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE  
ACTS TO THE PRESENT TIME,

SHEWING THEIR

TOTAL FAILURE  
IN A SANITARY POINT OF VIEW;

BEING A PAPER READ BEFORE THE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
OF LONDON, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 1872,

BY  
C. BELL TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

[PRESENTATION COPY.]

## PREFACE.

It has been well said by Burke, that "The Constitution of this country has been the pattern for politicians, the theme of the eloquent, the meditation of the philosopher, the boast of the patriot, and the envy of the whole world." The promoters of the Contagious Diseases Acts and all similar legislation are striving to destroy that glorious Constitution, oblivious or careless of the fact "that in their zeal against women they are undermining their own freedom."

I have shown in a former pamphlet, by quotations from the highest authorities and by facts and statistics not to be rebutted, that as sanitary measures all such regulations have in every known clime and age not only failed signally to suppress disease, but have very generally been attended by an aggravation of evil both physical and moral. Nevertheless, with a blindness similar, I presume, to that which induces us to consider "all men mortal but ourselves," the promoters of such regulations have always assumed that statutes which have failed everywhere else would succeed in England, and in answer to all argument and expostulation have triumphantly pointed to carefully prepared statistics which were supposed to show the brilliant results obtained in our garrison towns.

With the aid of an able statistician, Dr. Hooppell, of South Shields, I am now enabled to show how false are the facts and how fallacious the reasoning on which such assumptions are based.†

In my evidence before the Royal Commission I remarked that the periodical examination was "an outrage that nothing human ought to submit to," and Mr. George Thompson has well expressed the feeling of many who well know what that examination means, when he said "that these Acts sanction and legalise an atrocious invasion of the sacred and, as he believed, indefeasible rights belonging to every woman no matter how mean or outcast she might be;" nevertheless, in spite of the recommendation of the Royal Commission "that these examinations be discontinued," more than 100,000 such revolting outrages were enforced up to the end of the year 1870 (86,000 of them upon perfectly healthy women, not one of whom was either a criminal or suspected of any legal offence whatever), AND THEY ARE STILL GOING ON.

That freedom-loving English people should submit to such a gross violation of the fundamental laws of this country and the guaranteed rights of British subjects, would be incomprehensible were it not for the extraordinarily one-sided and utterly indefensible conduct of the Press, whose conductors, lay and medical, with one or two rare exceptions, while carefully parading the figures and arguments circulated by the Association for extending these Acts, have persistently refused to publish rebutting testimony, facts, or arguments emanating from scientific and other opponents of these measures.

C. B. T.

9, PARK ROW,  
NOTTINGHAM.

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† See foot note, page 5, showing how satisfactorily disease was falling off among the troops prior to the introduction of the Acts, and the last lines of page 12 for the figures demonstrating the increase under the system from 1866 to 1869. I would also beg the reader to procure Mr. Kingsford's Summary of the Evidence before the Royal Commission, especially that portion which treats of the Effects of the Acts on Venereal Disease.—London: Banks, 50, Great Marlborough Street, W.

THE  
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IN discussions upon the Contagious Diseases Acts, it is generally assumed that those measures have been successful in the professed object of their enactment—the extirpation or very great reduction of venereal affections. Those who are opposed to them base their opposition upon other grounds than their want of success in contending with the physical evil. To most of the opponents of the Acts, their success, or non-success, in this respect, is a matter of trifling importance compared with the immensity of the moral and political interests involved in such legislation. It behoves us, however, as a medical society, to consider their medical aspect, as well as to give due weight to considerations of other kinds; and I propose, this evening, to enquire into the question, whether the generally assumed impression is correct, that the Contagious Diseases Acts have (whatever other arguments may be used for or against them) been successful in a sanitary point of view.

The only trustworthy bases of such an enquiry are the returns made from time to time to Parliament respecting the health of the army and navy. When I say “trustworthy,” I do not mean that every word recorded in parliamentary papers is to be accepted without examination, on trust, but that these returns afford the only means we possess of investigating, with any degree of probability of arriving at correct conclusions, the question before us. Vague impressions regarding the comparative frequency of venereal cases now and a few years back, and isolated instances of the state of hospitals in minor garrison towns once now and then, are no grounds on which to base conclusions respecting a question of such magnitude and importance. The Parliamentary Returns give us facts on a larger and wider scale, but even they do not take in so wide a scope as would be necessary to

the full elucidation of the question ; for they necessarily exclude the male civil population. Considerations, however, which I will mention further on, prevent uncertainty as to the main results arising from this unavoidable omission.

Parliamentary papers giving, sometimes alone and sometimes in conjunction with other matter, statistical results of the Contagious Diseases Acts, have been published at various intervals since the introduction of those Acts. The following is a list of such documents :—

1. The Tables contained in the Appendix to the Report of the Lords' Committee upon the Acts, in the year 1868.
2. The Tables contained in the Appendix to the Report of the Commons' Committee upon the Acts, in the year 1869.
3. The Tables contained in a Return to the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Mitford, in the year 1870.
4. The Tables contained in the Appendix to the Evidence taken before the recent Royal Commission upon the Acts.

In addition to these, there are also the Army and Navy Medical Reports, published annually, and containing, among their statistics of other diseases, statistics pertaining to those affections which have a venereal origin.

Now, the first question that naturally occurs to a person investigating the sanitary results of the Contagious Diseases Acts is :—What is the improvement manifested, in the matter of venereal affections, in the army as a whole ? What is the improvement manifested in the navy as a whole ? If the year 1866 be taken, the year in which the first of the Acts at present in force was passed, and towards the close of which it began to be put in operation in a few places, the returns for which, therefore, could not be materially affected by the Act, and the last year for which we have returns be compared with it—to what extent will it appear that venereal diseases have diminished in the army and navy, taken as a whole ? To this question, two tables, printed in the Appendix to the Evidence taken before the Royal Commission, enable us to give a simple and decisive answer.

On page 815 is a table headed thus :—“Return showing the effect of Venereal Diseases on the efficiency of the Army serving at home during the ten years from 1860 to 1869 inclusive.” It gives the ratio, per thousand, of men “constantly sick for enthetic diseases.” The number for 1866 was 16·00. The number for 1869 was 14·87.\* Thus the total gain in the three years, taking the most favourable view, was

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\* This latter number is stated in a note to the table to be an approximation only.



a diminution of no more than one man and a trifling fraction in a thousand.

For the Navy, we turn to a table given on page 816, put in by Dr. Armstrong. This table does not give the number of men constantly sick for enthetic diseases, but "the number of cases of venereal disease contracted by the crews of Her Majesty's ships at home ports from 1856 to 1869 inclusive, with the ratios per thousand of force." From it we learn that the number of cases of venereal disease, per thousand, in the navy at home ports, was 101·3 in 1866, and 101·9 in 1869. Consequently, instead of a diminution, there was an actual increase in the three years.

The results I have now laid before the society are most important, It is impossible to explain them away. They go far to substantiate the views of those who hold that laws, like the Contagious Diseases Acts of this country have never, and can never, permanently diminish the prevalence of venereal disease. Although the system has now been tried in the United Kingdom for several years, although it has been applied to all the great naval stations, and to almost all the important stations of troops, and that at great expense of money, and greater violence to the constitutional rights of individuals than any law yet enacted in the United Kingdom, yet the impression made upon the aggregate amount of venereal disease has been *nil* in the navy,\* and scarcely, if anything, more than *nil* in the army. Indeed, it is hard to say whether disease has not been actually *increased* by the system, inasmuch as, both in the army and navy, venereal affections were, for several years before the introduction of these laws, steadily and rapidly declining.†

I am aware that in the tables which have been published, and which I have already enumerated, a vast mass of figures have been brought together, and arranged in some of them in such a way as to give the appearance of great sanitary benefits accruing from the Acts. This is particularly the case with the Return issued in 1870, and which, for the sake of distinction, I will call Mr. Mitford's. In this return

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\* Mr. Acton objects that, though the total number of cases in the navy may not have diminished, the relative proportion of syphilis to gonorrhœa has been altered. On consulting the Navy Medical Reports for 1866-9, I find that the number of men "constantly sick" of secondary syphilis was *identical* in 1866 and in 1869, being 1·4 per 1000 in each year. The number of men "constantly sick" of gonorrhœa had *more than doubled*, being ·9 per 1000 in 1866, and 1·9 per 1000 in 1869. Whatever improvement had taken place was in what is denominated in the returns "primary syphilis," respecting the importance to be attached to which, see note on page 9 and page 11.

† In the Army, from 422 cases, per 1000 men, in 1859, to 258·5, per 1000, in 1866. In the navy, from 162·9 cases, per 1000 men, in 1862, to 101·3, per 1000 in 1866.

figures were so placed, and calculations so performed, as to lead Captain Harris, whose name is attached to an introductory report to it, to say that the return showed "a decrease by one-half of the number of men in hospital for contagious disease." The statement was eagerly caught up and repeated by newspapers without number. But the figures I have already quoted, from the Appendix to the Evidence taken before the Royal Commission, show how utterly devoid of foundation the statement was. I do not like to apply to it the term "untruthful," because I do not think for one moment that there was an intention to deceive, but it is a circumstance both lamentable and disgraceful, that such egregiously erroneous statements should be promulgated on such authority.

The return, however, which furnished Captain Harris with the basis of his report, is crowded with the most palpable blunders. Some of these are discoverable at once from the return itself, and others are revealed upon a comparison of it with the tables given in the Appendices to the Lords and Commons Committees' Reports. That you may judge of the utter untrustworthiness of this worthless document, I will quote a few instances of its egregious errors.

I should premise, in the first place, that the information it professes to give, respecting the effect of the Acts upon the health of the army and navy, is avowedly confined to a statement of a portion only of the number of cases of venereal treated at the respective stations, viz., to those cases supposed to have been contracted in the districts themselves, excluding those supposed by the patients, or by the officials, to have been contracted elsewhere. This portion of the total number of cases it professes to give for each year, from the commencement of the Acts to the 31st of December, 1869. In doing this, it informs us that at Sheerness, in 1867, 14·06 per cent. of the whole number of soldiers at the station caught disease in the district. A reference to the previous returns shows that the *total* number of men treated in that year, at that station, was only 13·1 per cent., so that the statement of Mr. Mitford's return involves an absurdity of the most glaring character. The same thing occurs under the head of Woolwich. We know from the Lords' Report that the *total* number of men treated at Woolwich, in 1867, was 1,283. According to Mr. Mitford's return, that number, and 9 more (!) contracted disease in the district! The consequence of these great blunders is, of course, the exhibition of an immense reduction both at Sheerness and Woolwich, in the following year, of the men who "contracted disease in the district." Similarly, at Aldershot, this return states that 1,717 men contracted disease in the district, in the period extending from April

to December, 1867, whereas the other returns prove that only 1,526 were treated *in all* in that time.

Nor are such blunders as these the whole of the evil. In addition to such absurdities as I have mentioned, the errors of calculation in the returns are most disgraceful. The cases which occurred during a few months of a year are taken as a basis, and the number, which *might have occurred* in the rest of the year, are then estimated from these, and put down as actually occurring. The errors sure to arise from this are very great, as the amount of disease in different months varies exceedingly. Then the framer of the tables has obtained his final per-centages by adding together the per-centages at the different stations, and dividing by the number of stations, apparently oblivious of the fact that there were widely differing numbers of men at the several stations, and that, to take a plain illustration, 23 per cent. on 14000, and 4 per cent. on 2000, do not make  $13\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on 16000. Again, he has added in fresh stations every year, so that there can be no comparison between the different years, although they are written one under the other, inasmuch as the circumstances of the different stations are so diverse, and the amount of disease at them so unequal, that the constant adding the statistics of new stations to the general mass cannot fail to vitiate the whole.

But I will pass from the consideration of this disgraceful document, reflecting, as it does, the greatest discredit upon the department of Government which sent it forth, and will examine into the truth of the statement so freely made at the present time, that the operation of the Contagious Diseases Acts has reduced venereal disease, among the men of her Majesty's forces, from 120 cases per 1000 to 54 per 1000.

Stated, as this assertion constantly is, in this broad and general way, it is monstrously untrue; the facts I have already laid before you indicate plainly that it must be so. It is based upon some figures given by Dr. Balfour, in the Appendix to the Evidence taken before the Royal Commission, into the accuracy and extent of application of which I will enter presently. It is sufficient, now, to say, that they only refer to *one* group of venereal diseases, omitting both the most serious, and the most common, complaints, and that they refer only to *some* posts, out of a great number, at which the army is stationed, and that they have *no* reference whatsoever to the navy.

As I may be asked,—Who has applied these figures of Dr. Balfour's to venereal diseases generally, or to all Her Majesty's forces, or to all the army, or to a greater portion of the Army than Dr. Balfour's table warrants? I may say,—almost everyone who has addressed the public, directly or indirectly, in favour of the Acts, since the figures were published, has done one or other of these things. Thus, to begin with



the less important, Mr. Shirley Deakin, in a paper read before another Medical Society, in November last, and which has since been published, says:—"Dr. Balfour's statistics show clearly the diminution of disease (syphilis more than one half), 11.3 per cent. to 5.4 per cent, among the men in Her Majesty's forces." The words "syphilis more than one half" are in a parenthesis, appearing as one item in the general diminution; and the only way the whole statement would be understood by ordinary readers would be, that, through the operation of the Acts, venereal diseases generally,—certainly all classes of syphilis,—had been diminished to that extent in both army and navy. Then, a writer in a medical journal, the other day, attacking me, but not giving his own name, wrote:—"In 1865 the per-centage of men in the army affected by venereal was 120 per 1000; in 1870 it is reduced to 54 per 1000." Here the whole army, and every kind of venereal disease, would undoubtedly be present to the mind of the reader, as, I think, in all probability they were to the mind of the writer. Again, the Royal Commissioners themselves, in their Report, have fallen into a similar egregious blunder, regarding the extent of the applicability of Dr. Balfour's figures. On page 9 of their Report they say:—

"Taking the aggregate of 28 stations of troops in the United Kingdom, at which the average strength amounted to 500 and upwards, the ratio per 1000 of primary venereal sores in 1865 was 120; in 1867, before the fortnightly examinations had commenced, except for a few months at Chatham, the disease had fallen to 86; it continued to decrease from 86 to 72 and 60, until it fell to 54 in 1870, when the fortnightly examinations were generally established throughout the subjected districts."

One is astounded to read a statement so utterly at variance with the truth, in such a document, though it will surprise no one to learn that the statement was caught up and reprinted in almost every newspaper in the land. The truth is, that, of the whole 28 stations of troops referred to by the Commissioners, Dr. Balfour speaks of two only, when he says the ratio was 120 per 1000. I will quote one instance more of the looseness of language, with which these partial (not general) figures have been referred to,—the memorial sent to Mr. Bruce, some little time ago, by some of the leading promoters of this legislation. In that document the memorialists say:—"The Acts can be shown to have reduced the more serious form of disease, by considerably more than one half, in the districts where they are in operation," and they refer by name to the evidence of Dr. Balfour. Now there are both sailors and soldiers at many of the stations where the Acts are in operation, and Dr. Balfour's figures refer exclusively to the latter. Whether "the more serious form of disease" has been lessened at all, at any rate since 1866, I will enquire presently.



I come now to the consideration of the column of figures itself, of which so much has been made, and the quotations from which have been so grossly exaggerated. What does it really profess to give us? It professes to give us the proportion per 1000 men of "primary venereal sores," and of primary venereal sores only, at the stations which are under the Acts. "The most serious form of disease" I hold to be that which is designated in these returns *secondary* (true or constitutional) *syphilis*, not sores, 9 out of 10 of which are unimportant, and of this the table says nothing.\* With regard to it, Dr. Balfour says, in the Army Medical Report for 1869, "a considerable time must elapse before any marked effect in this respect on the army generally can be developed." From this it is plain we may conclude that in true, or secondary, syphilis no good results can be shown, and, indeed, it can be proved, as I will presently show, that, as regards the army as a whole, the reverse of good results have arisen. But the fact of Dr. Balfour's reticence on this point is, of itself, a serious presumption against the system. If after the lapse of several years, during which many men must have left the army, many must have died, no good in the most important particular of all appears; if, on the contrary, the men who have supplied the places of the former soldiers have gone on incurring the worst form of disease as often as their predecessors, notwithstanding the vast expense, the straining of our English laws, and the outrages upon the frail unconsenting bodies of thousands of Englishwomen, then I say, and I say it without fear of disproof, the Contagious Diseases Acts of this country have been, as similar laws in other countries have ever been, a mockery and a delusion.

These figures also refer not at all to the cases of gonorrhœa, the venereal disease which is by far the most common. Other figures in the table are given which show that no advantage whatsoever has accrued from the Acts in regard to that disease. As far as it is concerned, the Acts have been confessedly a failure,—a complete and total failure. Indeed they appear to have intensified gonorrhœa, both

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\* It is grossly misleading to place all cases of primary venereal sores under the head of syphilis, or constitutional, as is done in the new nomenclature; since the vast majority of such cases are not syphilitic at all, do not infect the constitution, are entirely local in their nature, and of less importance even than gonorrhœa. Both Mr. Acton and Dr. Balfour concur in stating that the proportion of simple sores to syphilitic chancres is nine out of ten. Mr. Henry Lee gives a much larger proportion than this, as do some other authors. Others, however, state that the proportion is four out of five. It is plain, therefore, that a considerable diminution in the number of sores might be effected without any decrease whatever in the number of cases of syphilis, properly so called. Recently some of the cases of superficial sores have been classed as balanitis, and put under the head of gonorrhœa, and this, of course, would account for an apparent diminution of sores, without any real diminution whatever.

in frequency and virulence. It is significant to read in the Navy Medical Report for 1868, regarding the health of the men on board the flagship of the Channel Fleet (the *Minotaur*):—"Gonorrhœa was a pretty constant accompaniment of venereal at Portsmouth,\* with much more inflammation than usual;" and, in the very last published Statistical Abstract of the health of the Navy, respecting the *Monarch*:—"During the Midsummer quarter of 1870 the *Monarch* was at Portsmouth, and for some time on an experimental cruise. The diseases which contributed most to the sick list during this time were rheumatic and catarrhal affections, *venereal diseases*, boils, and abscesses; *the disease which caused the greatest loss of service was gonorrhœa.*"

To return, however, to the only head of venereal complaints the much quoted figures do really deal with—primary venereal sores. Were the statement that the proportion of these sores had been reduced among the soldiers from 120 to 54.5, at the stations under the Acts, completely true, I should yet hold that it mattered little, so long as the amount of secondary syphilis was untouched. But the statement is *not* completely true. It is erroneous, and it is misleading. The figures for 1865 are derived from two stations only; the figures for 1870 from 14. New stations, where the proportion of primary venereal sores was *not* 120 before the application of the Acts, have been added in to the account every year, and the result, as any sound statistician will admit, is worthless in consequence.

Moreover, it is misleading to take 1865 as a year to start from. That was the first year of the first Act. Either the year before, viz., 1864, should be taken, or the year after, viz., 1866, the year preceding the enforcement of the oldest Act now in operation,—of *the* Act which embodied the full system.

The number 120 is also incorrect in itself. To get it Portsmouth and Devonport have been taken. Either Portsmouth alone should have been taken, or Sheerness and Chatham should have been included also; for the Act of 1864 was applied to those stations, as well as to Devonport, in the year 1865.

It will hardly be credited, after so much has been heard of this figure 120, that the proportion of primary venereal sores per 1000 men, at *all* the 28 stations of troops in the United Kingdom, was less than 100 in that same year 1865; and in the following year 1866 was less than 91, at *all the stations*, "protected" and "unprotected" alike. The "protected" stations were but four in number, while the "unprotected" were 24. Nearly a whole half, therefore, of the great reduction in primary venereal sores ascribed to the Acts took place before any of the present Acts came into force, and was experienced

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\* The station which has been longest of all under the Acts.

at the unsubjected stations, though six times more numerous, no less than at the subjected stations. It cannot, therefore, have been the result of causes connected with this legislation.

To say, then, that the Contagious Diseases Acts have reduced even one form of venereal disease, at one group of stations, among one class of Her Majesty's Forces, from 120 to 54·5 per 1000 men, is to state a proposition altogether inconsistent with the fact.

Granting, however, that there has been, since 1866, at some stations, to some extent, a diminution of those affections which have been classed as "primary syphilis," to what does this really amount? The Royal Commissioners, in their Report, disposed, as they everywhere, throughout that document, appear to be, to regard the Acts with all the favour possible, nevertheless affirm that "there is no distinct evidence that any diminution of disease among the men of the Army and Navy which may have taken place, is attributable to a diminution of disease contingent upon the system of periodical examination among the women with whom they have consorted." They mention, also, a very striking instance, which occurred at Plymouth, in the case of the Royal Marines, and append to it the remark:—"These results, therefore, if they were attributable to legislation at all, were certainly not due to the legislation of 1866."

That the Commissioners had good ground for the opinion they expressed on this point is shown abundantly by the table, on page 814 of the Royal Commission Evidence. It is seen by that, that at many stations, which have never been under the Acts, remarkable diminutions, in the proportion of primary venereal sores to the number of men, have repeatedly occurred: thus, at the Isle of Wight, such cases fell from 74 per 1000 men, in 1864, to 11, in 1866; at Winchester, from 111, in 1864, to 52, in 1867; at Pembroke Dock, from 83, in 1865, to 35, in 1868. On the other hand, at Windsor, the number of cases has never been so low since the introduction of the Acts as it was before, and at Canterbury, brought under the Acts on the 21st of January, 1870, the number of cases was immediately trebled.\*

Such facts as these speak volumes for the needlessness and inutility of the Acts. But when we add to this that no diminution whatsoever of real syphilis can be shown, and that the Acts have unquestionably failed to diminish, if they have not actually increased, both the frequency and the virulence of gonorrhœa, we need little more to convince us of the mischievous character of the system they establish. Under the head of primary syphilis (in the Navy, at any rate)† all sores were included, even those caused by mere abrasion, mechanical

\* 45 in 1869; 152 in 1870. Δ larger number in 1870 than in any other of the seven years given in the table.

† See Report of the Health of the Navy, for 1868, page 69.



excoriation, and inattention to cleanliness. A diminution in the gross number of these may easily be brought about, either by omitting to classify such trifling ailments, or by providing, and enforcing recourse to, means of cleanliness among the men. We know that every effort has been made, in the latter direction, since the passing of the Contagious Diseases Acts; and, with regard to the former, it appears that since 1869 such a change in the classification of enthetic diseases has been adopted, the effect of which, in lessening the totals given, cannot fail to be considerable.

I might very well conclude at this point, but I wish, before sitting down, to direct your attention to some very decisive statistics, extracted from the Army Medical Reports for the last four years for which those volumes have been issued. One table refers to the total number of cases of enthetic disease in the whole Home Army; the other to the total number of cases, and to the number of each special disease, or group of diseases, in the eight or nine principal branches of the service. The first table is drawn from the Reports at the commencement of the several volumes, the second from one of the Appendices in each volume. Any gentleman possessing the Army Medical Reports can verify the correctness of the figures for himself. In the first table I can only give the figures to the year 1868, as, in consequence of the new mode of classification, corresponding figures are not given in the volume for 1869. In the second table I am able to give the particulars, under the heads of greatest interest, for all the years.\*

Now, Dr. Balfour's words indicate, with sufficient plainness, that true syphilis has not diminished in the English Army since the introduction of the Contagious Diseases Acts. But what do we find from this table? We find that it has increased. We find that, in 1866, the number of men per 1000 (in a total of nearly 60,000), affected by secondary, or true, syphilis, was 23·39, while, in 1869, it was 26·33. So that, notwithstanding every effort that had been made in the three years, during which the Act of 1866 had been in force, secondary, or true, syphilis, the only really "serious form of disease," was higher by three per 1000 than it was in the year before the Act was introduced.

The same, we find, was true of all other enthetic diseases. Every class of disease was higher in its ratio in 1869 than in 1866. Primary syphilis, in 1866, was 78·53 per 1000; in 1869 it was 78·72: gonorrhœa, in 1866, was 98·43; in 1869, 103·11: other enthetic diseases, in 1866, were 36·19; in 1868, 37·88. The new mode of classification prevents my being able to give the number for the latter in 1869. The same thing was true of the total number of cases of enthetic dis-

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\* Since writing the above I have enlarged the former table by including the years from 1859 to 1865.



ease in the *whole* Army, as the other table shews. In the whole Army the total number of admissions, in 1866, was 258·5 per 1000; in 1868, 282·2 per 1000. So that, in the two years, there was an increase in the cases of 23·7 per 1000; whereas, *in every preceding year since 1859* there had been a decrease, the whole diminution in the seven years amounting to no fewer than 163 per 1000.

I think I have now clearly shown that the Army, as a whole, was, at the date of the last Report, no better for this legislation; that the Navy was no better. Indeed, the figures are conclusive; they cannot be overborne. No manipulation of local, or partial, results can overthrow the broad fact that enthetic disease was more prevalent in both the great divisions of Her Majesty's Forces, after three years' experience of the Contagious Diseases Acts, than it was before their introduction. And, if the Army and Navy were in a worse state, there can be no doubt whatsoever that civilians generally were worse also, and in a greater degree. For the causes, which operate to defeat the influence of police and medical regulations, for the discovery and treatment of venereal diseases, upon the health of the men of the Army and Navy, operate with greater effect to defeat their influence upon the health of civilians indulging in illicit intercourse. One of those causes is the multiplied indulgence springing from the apparent immunity afforded. This multiplied indulgence spreads more among civilians than among soldiers and sailors, inasmuch as their means and opportunities are greater. Another potent cause is the evasion of the police by many of the unhappy females, however active and energetic the police may be. But of those who evade the police, the greater number are those who consort with civilians, rather than with soldiers and sailors, it being more difficult for those who consort with the latter to avoid detection. Hence, whatever the results may be in the case of the Army and Navy, they must necessarily be less satisfactory in the case of civilians.

I cannot conclude my paper without expressing my great satisfaction that the Government have resolved to propose the Repeal of the existing Acts. At the same time I trust that they will withdraw those clauses of the Bill, which has been introduced upon the subject, which are intended to perpetuate as much of the system as it is supposed public opinion may possibly be induced to allow. I am persuaded that when we, as medical practitioners belonging to as noble a profession as exists upon earth, call in the help of the police to extend our influence, or suffer ourselves to be linked with them in harsh and revolting duties, we abdicate our high position and degrade our function, transforming ourselves from the friends and succourers of humanity into its hated inquisitors and jailors.

## HOME ARMY.

CONSTANTLY SICK FOR ENTHETIC DISEASES.

*(Extracted from Royal Commission Evidence, p. 815.)*

RATIO PER 1000.

YEAR.	RATIO.
1861	24·70
1862	22·32
1863	20·31
1864	19·11
1865	18·14
1866	16·00
1867	17·95
1868	17·82
1869	14·87*

\* Stated in the table to be an approximation only.

## NAVY AT HOME PORTS.

TOTAL CASES OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

*(Extracted from Royal Commission Evidence, p. 816.)*

RATIO PER 1000.

YEAR.	RATIO.
1862	162·9
1863	151·3
1864	141·1
1865	143·1
1866	101·3
1867	92·9
1868	90·1
1869	101·9

## HOME ARMY.

## TOTAL ADMISSIONS FOR ENTHETIC DISEASES.

(Extracted from *Army Medical Reports*, 1859-69.)

RATIO PER 1000.

YEAR.	STRENGTH.	RATIO.
1859	*	422·
1860	97,703	369·0
1861	88,955	353·8
1862	78,173	329·9
1863	75,945	306·8
1864	73,252	290·7
1865	72,399	282·8
1866	70,292	258·5
1867	73,420	291·5
1868	78,261	282·2
1869	*	*

\* Not given in Report.

## HOME ARMY.

COMPARATIVE PREVALENCE OF DIFFERENT CLASSES OF VENEREAL DISEASE  
IN PRINCIPAL DIVISIONS OF THE SERVICE, FOR YEARS 1866-1869.(Compiled from *Army Medical Reports*, 1866-69.)

YEAR.	STRENGTH.	TOTAL CASES.	PRIMARY SYPHILIS.	SECONDARY SYPHILIS.	GONORRHEA.	OTHER DISEASES.	YEAR.
1866	59,758	14,135	4693	1398	5882	2162	1866
1867	62,901	17,098	5444	1652	7290	2712	1867
1868	68,350	18,148	5486	2077	7996	2589	1868
1869	68,962	*	5429	1808	7111	*	1869

THE SAME PER 1000.

YEAR.	STRENGTH.	TOTAL CASES.	PRIMARY SYPHILIS.	SECONDARY SYPHILIS.	GONORRHEA.	OTHER DISEASES.	YEAR.
1866	59,758	236·54	78·53	23·39	98·43	36·19	1866
1867	62,901	271·82	86·55	26·26	115·90	43·11	1867
1868	68,350	265·52	80·26	30·39	116·99	37·88	1868
1869	68,962	*	78·72	26·33	103·11	*	1869

\* Not obtainable from the Report.

NOTTINGHAM :

PRINTED BY STEVENSON, BAILEY, AND SMITH, LISTER GATE.